

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 7 SPC DISCUSSION ON DETENTE: UK PAPER

REF: USNATO 5450

TRANSMITTED BELOW IS THE TEXT OF A PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE UK DEL
IN THE OCTOBER 7 DETENTE DISCUSSIONS IN THE SPC AND PROPOSING,
AS REPORTED SEPTEL, THAT AN ALLIED REVIEW SHOULD ATTEMPT
AN ANALYSIS OF THE DETENTE "BALANCE SHEET" AS SEEN FROM MOSCOW.
BEGIN TEXT:

A. IS BREZHNEV THE BEST GENERAL SECRETARY THE WEST HAS GOT?

(I) HOW MUCH DOES THE SOVIET POLICY OF DETENTE DEPEND ON
BREZHNEV HIMSELF AND HOW FAR IS IT A POLICY OF THE COLLECTIVE
LEADERSHIP?

(II) WHO ARE BREZHNEV'S MOST LIKELY SUCCESSORS IN THE SHORT
AND MEDIUM TERM?

(II) HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW ABOUT THEM, AND ABOUT THE DIRECTION
IN WHICH THEY WOULD BE LIKELY TO EXERCISE THEIR INFLUENCE?

B. CAN WE DRAW UP A BALANCE SHEET OF DETENTE AS SEEN FROM
MOSCOW? (THIS WOULD HAVE TO DEAL BRIEFLY WITH THE US/SOVIET
RELATIONSHIP AND SALT; WITH CSCE AND MBFR; WITH SOVIET
RELATIONS WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES; AND , PERHAPS, WITH EEC/
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CMA RELATIONS. IN EACH CASE WE SHOULD HAVE TO ASK WHAT WERE THE
PERCEIVED SOVIET BENEFITS AND RISKS, WHERE THE BALANCE WAS
THOUGHT TO LIE, AND WHETHER DIFFERENT FACTIONS IN THE LEADERSHIP
WERE LIKELY TO COME TO SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS.)

C. WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE
FOR THE PRESENT OR ANY LIKELY LEADERSHIP OF THE USSR?

D. GIVEN THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS A, B AND C ABOVE

(I) HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT THERE WILL BE A CHANGE OF POLICY
IN THE SHORT OR MEDIUM TERM?

(II) CAN WE ASSOCIATE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES WITH PARTICULAR
FACTIONS OR PRESSURE GROUPS?

(III) IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT THE PRESSURE FOR CHANGE BE
INCREASED, AND HOW FAR WILL SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN ONE ASPECT
OF SOVIET WEST POLITIK INFLUENCE THE OTHERS?

E. WHAT CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE DRAWN FOR WESTERN POLICY?

END TEXT. MCAULIFFE

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